



## **R. I. Governor's Commission on Disabilities**

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**Doreen McConaghy, Chair / Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary / Fernando Bobis, Editor**

# **Legislative Letter**

**Monday, March 17, 2003**

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### **Bill Assignments to Committees**

#### **Committee Hearings**

<b>Location:</b>	<b>House Finance Committee</b>		
<b>Chairperson:</b>	<b>Paul V. Sherlock</b>	<b>Room:</b>	<b>035</b>

#### **Hearing/Vote on: 3/14**

**Bill's Number: 03-H 5607**

**Title: HEALTH AND SAFETY -- FAIR MARKET DRUG PRICING**

**Sponsors: Rep. Moura Co: Reps. Kilmartin, Anguilla, Long, McCauley Introduced On: 2/11/03**

**Amends: Adds Chapter 77 to Title 23**

**Description:** Would establish the Rhode Island Fair Market Drug Pricing Program. This program would establish a state pharmaceutical assistance program whereby the state would negotiate supplemental rebates or discounted prices from drug manufacturers. These savings would be passed on to consumers. Takes effect on July 1, 2003.

**Similar to:**

**Requested by:**

#### **Hearing/Vote on: 3/14 @ 1PM - Rm. 35**

**Bill's Number: 03-H 5564**

**Title: EDUCATION**

**Sponsors: Rep. Dennigan Co: Reps. Anguilla, Malik, Moura, Slater Introduced On: 2/11/03**

**Amends: Amends Section 16-63-14**

**Description:** Would appropriate three million dollars (\$3,000,000) to increase adult education programs in category 1 of section 16-63-5 (basic education, which shall consist of efforts to alleviate illiteracy and provide opportunities for academic achievement up to grade twelve (12)). Takes effect upon passage.

**Similar to:**

**Requested by:**

<b>Location:</b>	<b>House Health, Education, &amp; Welfare Committee</b>
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<b>Chairperson:</b>	<b>Joanne M. Giannini</b>
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<b>Room:</b>	<b>135</b>
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**Hearing/Vote on: 3/19 @**

**Bill's Number: 03-H 5435**

**Title: COMPLAINTS OF HARASSMENT**

Sponsors: Rep. Ajello      Co: Reps. Williams, Giannini, Almeida, Handy      Introduced On: 2/5/03

Amends: Adds Chapter 76.1 to Title 16; amends Section 28-5-7

Description: Would make it unlawful for an Institution of Higher Education, and an employer, to refuse to disclose to the employee, in writing and in a timely manner, the disposition of an internal complaint alleging harassment on the basis of race or color, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or country of ancestral origin. Takes effect upon passage.

Similar to: 03-S 0397

Requested by:

<b>Location:</b>	<b>House Judiciary Committee</b>
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<b>Chairperson:</b>	<b>Robert E. Flaherty</b>
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<b>Room:</b>	<b>205</b>
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**Hearing/Vote on: 3/19 @**

**Bill's Number: 03-H 5659**

**Title: SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY**

Sponsors: Rep. Moura      Co: Reps. Anguilla, Smith, Ajello, Williams      Introduced On: 2/11/03

Amends: Adds Chapter 31.1 to Title 9

Description: Would clarify that the state of Rhode Island can be sued in federal and/or state court by state employees and other parties seeking to enforce rights with respect to certain federal statutes applicable to the state (including The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990), as well as certain previously established state statutes or judicial interpretations (including The Civil Rights of People With Disabilities Act). Takes effect on July 1, 2003 and would apply to causes of action arising on or after that date.

Similar to: 03-S 0468

Requested by:

<b>Location:</b>	<b>Senate Education Committee</b>
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<b>Chairperson:</b>	<b>Daniel J. Issa</b>
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<b>Room:</b>	<b>Senate Lounge</b>
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**Hearing/Vote on: 3/26 @**

**Bill's Number: 03-S 0219**

**Title: EDUCATION**

Sponsors: Sen. Ciccone      Co: Sens. Lanzi, Pichardo, Ruggerio, Tassoni      Introduced On: 2/4/03

Amends: Adds Chapter 39.1 to Title 16

Description: Would establish an Alternative School Pilot Program to be adopted by the Board of Regents of Elementary and Secondary Education and the local school committees for the purpose of educating children who have been expelled from school or have otherwise been determined to be unsuitable for attendance at a regular school. Takes effect upon passage.

Similar to: 03-H 5886 & 03-S 0274

Requested by:

**Bill's Number:** 03-S 0274

**Title:** EDUCATION - CURRICULUM

Sponsors: Sen. Polisena Co: Sen. Damiani

Introduced On: 2/5/03

Amends: Adds Section 16-22-23

Description: Would require each school district to adopt a plan to create an alternative education program to educate students who are removed from the classroom because of a suspension of more than ten (10) days or who are chronically truant. Takes effect upon passage.

Similar to: 03-S 0219 & 03-H 5886

Requested by:

**Location:**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**Chairperson:**

**Stephen D. Alves**

**Room:**

**211**

**Hearing/Vote on: 3/20 @**

**Bill's Number:** 03-S 0303

**Title:** EDUCATION -- MANDATES

Sponsors: Sen. Raptakis Co: Sens. Cote, Alves, Blais, Lenihan

Introduced On: 2/6/03

Amends: Adds Chapter 16-83 to Title 16

Description: Would place restrictions on educational mandates such that no mandate would be enacted until after public hearing and determination of the cost of the proposed mandate to the school districts of the state. Any rule, regulation or policy adopted requiring a new expenditure would not take effect until July 1 of the calendar year following the year of adoption. This chapter could be suspended if the governor determines that postponement would imperil the public's safety or public's health and issues an executive order. Takes effect upon passage.

Similar to:

Requested by:

**Location:**

**Senate Judiciary Committee**

**Chairperson:**

**Michael J. McCaffrey**

**Room:**

**313**

**Hearing/Vote on: 3/20**

**Bill's Number:** 03-S 0262

**Title:** PROPERTY - RHODE ISLAND FAIR HOUSING PRACTICES ACT

Sponsors: Sen. Perry Co: Sens. Paiva-Weed, Connors, Pichardo, Tassoni

Introduced On: 2/5/03

Amends: Adds sections 34-37-2.5, 34-37-2.5, and amends Sections 34-37-1, 34-37-2, 34-37-3, 34-37-4, 34-37-4.3, 34-37-5.2, 34-37- 5.3 & 34-37-5.4.

Description: Would add the recipients of government assistance, including medical assistance, to the persons against whom discrimination in housing is prohibited. Takes effect upon passage.

Similar to: 03-H 5518

Requested by:

<b>Location:</b>	Senate Labor Committee		
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Roger Badeau	<b>Room:</b>	212

**Hearing/Vote on: 3/19 @ 2:30PM - Rm. 212**

**Bill's Number: 03-S 0169**

**Title: FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES ACT**

Sponsors: Sen. Perry

Co: Sens. Paiva-Weed, Tassoni, Roberts

Introduced On: 1/29/03

Amends: Section 28-5-36

**Description:** Would amend the fair employment practices act to clarify that a complainant may enforce a commission order if the order has not been appealed. Takes effect upon passage and would apply to all cases pending before the commission.

Similar to:

Requested by:

**Bill's Number: 03-S 0396**

**Title: DISABILITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES**

Sponsors: Sen. Lanzi

Co: Sens. Ciccone, Pichardo, Badeau, Ruggerio

Introduced On: 2/12/03

Amends: Chapter 37-2.2

**Description:** Would reduce the percentage of work produced by persons with disabilities employed in for-profit businesses from 75% to 60% for that business to be certified a disability business enterprise. Takes effect upon passage.

Similar to: 03-H 5492

Requested by: Governor's Commission on Disabilities

## Committee Recommendations / House and Senate Calendar

House Calendar		
<b>Status</b>	<b>Recommend Pass in Concurrence</b>	<b>Date of Vote:</b>
<b>Bill's Number: 03-S 0108 as amended</b>	<b>Title: TAXATION -- SPECIAL HOUSING EXEMPTION -- LINCOLN</b>	
Sponsors: Sen. Connors	Co: Sens. Celona, Montalbano J	Amends: Section 44-3-4
<b>Description:</b> Would allow the town of Lincoln to increase the veterans' special housing exemption to eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000). Takes effect upon passage. Amendment changes the eligibility starting date for the Vietnam conflict from December 22, 1961 to February 28, 1961.		
Similar to:	Requested by:	
<b>Status</b>	<b>Recommend Passage</b>	<b>Date of Vote:</b>
<b>Bill's Number: 03-H 5028 as amended</b>	<b>Title: TAXATION -- VETERANS' EXEMPTION -- TOTAL DISABILITY</b>	
Sponsors: Rep. Menard	Co: Reps. Petrarca, McManus	Amends: Section 44-3-4
<b>Description:</b> Would raise the total disability veterans' exemption in Lincoln to eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000) commencing December 31, 2002. Takes effect upon passage and would apply commencing with the December 31, 2002 assessment. Amendment changes the eligibility starting date for the Vietnam conflict from December 22, 1961 to February 28, 1961.		
Similar to: 03-S 0023 & 03-S 0108	Requested by:	

## Bills Passed or Transferred and House / Senate Vote

### Governor's Action

For daily updates on the status of bills, committee hearings, etc. call the General Assembly's Legislative Hot-Line at 401-751-8833 (v), 401-222-2466 (tty) or Computer Bulletin Board at 401-222-2910. Additionally, visit their website at <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us> (which provides links to the complete texts of all bills).

Notices of meetings of the Commission's Legislation Committee, minutes of prior meetings, and copies of the Commission's Legislative Package are available on our website at <http://www.gcd.state.ri.us>

*The Legislative Letter is a weekly listing of bills filed in the RI General Assembly, committee hearings, and actions by the House and Senate relating to people with disabilities. It is available by subscription for \$20 annually. For \$25, all Commission Reports will accompany the Legislative Letter. The Legislative Letter and Commission Reports are available in standard print, large print, audiocassette, computer diskette, Braille or e-mail.*

The Commission also has a free E-mail Legislative Alert Service, e-mailing notices of important legislative activity at the State House or in Washington and local distribution of e-mail messages from the National Council on Disability, American Association of People with Disabilities, National Organization on Disability and other sources. To sign up just send an e-mail to [disabilities@gcd.state.ri.us](mailto:disabilities@gcd.state.ri.us)